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L'AMOUR FRAGILE

“For there is sweetness in an empty kiss.”
Theocritus.

You kissed me once. A palm-tree threw
Its kindly leaves to screen the view
From callous eyes; a far waltz strain
Rocked pleasing fancies in the brain;
And—well—you know your eyes are blue.

Strange that such trifling things should woo
A pair of worldlings like us two
To youthful follies back again!
You kissed me once.

And, though I pluck for roses rue,
And get a careless “How-d’ye-do?”
On pouted lips of chill disdain,
Now, when we meet in pleasure’s train,
I’m proud to think, on seeing you,
“You kissed me once.”

ARTHUR F. BELL.